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IMPLEMENTING NORMS CHANGING MINDS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALBANIA BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

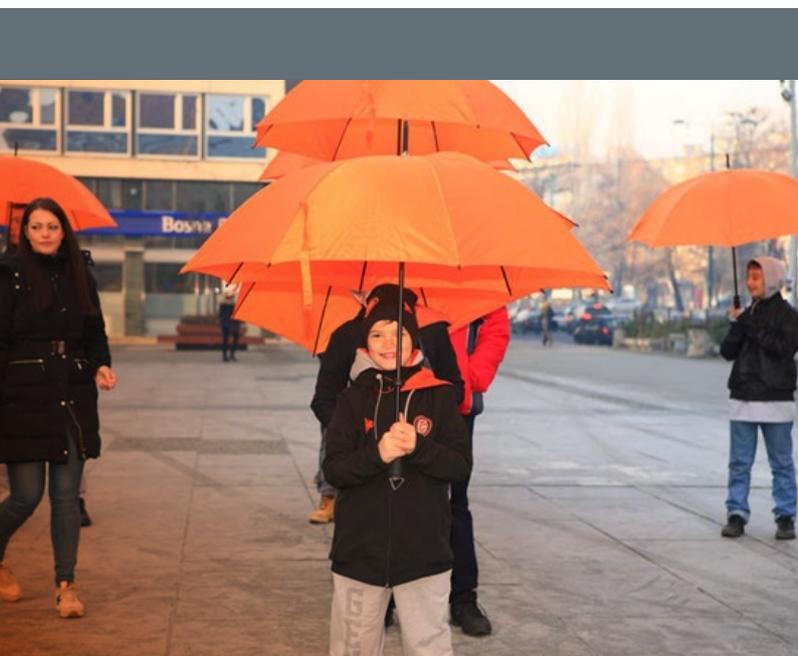
Around 60 university students from the Elbasan region, one of the largest regions in central Albania, boost their knowledge about fighting against different forms of violence against women and become confident to serve as role models to their high school peers, thanks to an initiative aimed at changing social norms and raising awareness on harmful gender stereotypes, implemented by Woman Forum Elbasan in the framework of the UN Women regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union.

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ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN COMMUNITIES IN KOSOVO TACKLE A CENTURIES-OLD HARMFUL PHENOMENON

A UN Women “door-to-door” awareness-raising campaign on the issue of child, early and forced marriages, funded by the European Union, has reached around 2000 people in five municipalities in Kosovo*.

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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TAKES A STRONG STEP FORWARD TO PROTECT WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Tenzila Sejmenović, 52 years old, from Zenica, a city located in the center of Bosnia and Herzegovina, suffered from physical and psychological violence for 15 years. Alone with her two children, she decided to report the violence and ask for support from the state institutions. Faced with a slow, time-consuming process, she struggled to get the help she needed.

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JOURNALISTS FROM NORTH MACEDONIA BUILD PARTNERSHIPS FOR A MEDIA MORE SENSITIVE TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Journalists and media professionals from North Macedonia benefited from space for conversations on the topics of gender equality and how their work can contribute to the fight to end violence against women in the long term.

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* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. For UN Women, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



TAKE FIVE: “ONE OF OUR CORE PRINCIPLES OF WORK IS TO TRUST WOMEN WHO SURVIVED SEXUAL VIOLENCE”

Danica Todorov, the coordinator of four Centers for Survivors of Sexual Violence from Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, northern Serbia, is engaged in developing support services for women survivors of sexual violence. Todorov spoke to UN Women about how the centers help women survivors of sexual violence and why it is important to develop and advocate for public policies and measures that prevent gender-based violence and support women survivors of sexual violence.

[Read more](#)

FATHERS IN TURKEY EMBRACE A NEW JOURNEY: EQUAL SHARE OF HOUSEHOLD AND CHILDCARE RESPONSIBILITIES

Fathers in Turkey are inspired to get more involved in childcare and household responsibilities, thanks to an online initiative aimed to support involved fatherhood and the development of children, launched by the civil society organization Mother Child Education Foundation, under the UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union.

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TAKE FIVE: “DATA-DRIVEN INITIATIVES ARE CRUCIAL TO MEETING WOMEN SURVIVORS’ NEEDS IN A WORLD OF LIMITED RESOURCES”

Elma Tershana is the Executive Director of Observatory for Children and Youth Rights, a civil society organization from Albania that has created better mechanisms to collect information on the situation of children’s rights across the country. In this interview, Tershana talks to UN Women about why data collection is vital to ending violence against women and how it can improve support for women survivors of violence.

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BUILDING ENGAGEMENT AROUND THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION



Representatives of the civil society organizations –Czech Women Lobby (Czech Republic) and Feminoteka (Poland) – attended the communications workshop “Building engagement: #IstanbulConventionSavesLives,” organized by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with WAVE Network and UN Women ECARO on 25th of June 2021. The workshop was an informal venue for sharing the experience of media, communications, and advocacy professionals with CSOs and aimed to inspire them to run communications campaigns so to engage their target groups for a positive social change. After a call of proposals, the CSOs have been granted to run communications and advocacy campaigns in order to raise awareness on the Istanbul Convention and dispel misconceptions about it.

RESEARCH: COVID-19 AND WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN MONTENEGRO

The qualitative research “COVID-19 and women victims of violence in Montenegro,” conducted by Women’s Safe House Podgorica and SOS Hotline Nikšić, highlights how the COVID-19 pandemic overshadowed the needs of women survivors of violence, particularly women with disabilities and women from rural areas, making them feel more insecure, lonely, isolated, and “restrained,” both in the sense of escaping violence and dealing with issues like court proceedings and life decisions in general. In this respect, the research outlines concrete actions to be taken by the state to ensure the right to protection and safety for women who experience violence. You can read the research in Montenegrin [here](#)



ACTION
SCALE UP COMPREHENSIVE, ACCESSIBLE, AND QUALITY SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF GBV AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY

TARGETS

- More women and girls will live in countries with GBV related police, justice, health and social sector services by 2026
- 100 countries build capacity of law enforcement to address GBV

TACTICS

- Service Delivery
- Financing
- Education/PPA Capacity Building
- Data & Accountability

INFORMATION SESSION ON THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ACTION COALITION AND THE ROLE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS PLAY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Around 60 representatives of the civil society organizations from the Western Balkans and Turkey attended the information session on the GBV Action Coalition, organized by the UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional office on 22nd of June 2021. Gabrielle Henderson, Policy Specialist and Thematic Lead Action Coalition on GBV, at UN Women HQ, presented the Action Coalitions Blueprints profile draft actions, including the 4 Actions Coalitions on GBV with their targets and tactics. At the same time, she introduced the Action Coalition Commitments Making, informing that 95 partners – member states, UN agencies, international organizations, CSOs, youth-led organizations, and private companies – have joined the Actions Coalitions as leaders and therefore as commitment makers. The presentation concluded with the benefits of becoming commitment makers and examples of what a commitment can look like, inviting CSOs to become a commitment makers and submit their commitments on the Commitments Platform.



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The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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